



**Pacific Northwest Region  
Malheur National Forest  
541-575-3000  
[www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur)**

# News Release

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April 12, 2016

## ***Malheur National Forest to Begin Invasive Plant Treatments***

**JOHN DAY, PRAIRIE CITY, and HINES, OR** – The Malheur National Forest will soon begin an integrated approach to manage invasive plants, which includes prevention; manual, mechanical, herbicide, biological control and cultural treatments; and restoration work. This work to prevent the expansion of infestations will be implemented under the 2015 decision for the Malheur Site-Specific Invasive Plants Treatment Project and the Forest Plan amended by the Pacific Northwest Region 2005 decision for Preventing and Managing Invasive Plants.

Invasive species negatively affect biodiversity, including wildlife habitat, wildlife and domestic livestock forage, and streamside vegetation. Invasive plants targeted for treatment include spotted, diffuse, and other knapweeds; Canada, bull, Scotch, and musk thistles; St. Johnswort; houndstongue, sulphur cinquefoil; Dalmation and yellow toadflax; whitetop and other invasive mustards; and leafy spurge.

Expanded treatment on the forest is scheduled to begin this spring and is expected to continue through October. The majority of herbicide treatments will be spot application to individual invasive plants using backpack and truck sprayers. Some broadcast application is also planned along a small subset of roadsides and gravel pits. Work in 2016 will also occur within the burn perimeter of the Canyon Creek Complex fire as part of Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER).

Treatment sites are located across the Malheur National Forest and herbicide treatments will be signed at the time of treatment. A blue marker dye that will fade over time will be mixed with herbicides to alert people of where product has been applied. Herbicides allowed for use include aminopyralid, chlorsulfuron, clopyralid, glyphosate, imazapic, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, sethoxydim, sulfometuron methyl, and triclopyr. Manual and mechanical treatments will continue as they have in previous years. All treatments will be carried out following the project design features of the Record of Decision for the Invasive Plants Treatment Project.

Partners include Grant Soil and Water Conservation District, Harney County Weed Control, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, private landowners, and permittees. Funding includes appropriated dollars and grant money from Title II projects.

The public can identify areas where edible and medicinal plants are collected to be avoided from herbicide treatment on a case by case basis.

For individuals with concern, the following campgrounds will have no herbicide use in 2016: Magone Lake on the Blue Mountain Ranger District, Trout Farm on the Prairie City Ranger District, and Idlewild on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District. The remaining



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campgrounds may have at least half the campground herbicide free in a 30-day period.

Maps of treatment sites will be posted on the forest's website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur> prior to application.

For more specific information on timing and location of herbicide treatments, please contact the forest's Invasive Plants Specialist: Whitney Rapp at 541-575-3067 or by email at [whitneysrapp@fs.fed.us](mailto:whitneysrapp@fs.fed.us).

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